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SUBJECT: IRAQI MISSION'S CONSULAR SECTION IN AMMAN RENEWING
PASSPORTS, ISSUING ITDS

1. (SBU) Summary. Iraqi Consul in Amman Ahmad Jirallah Al-Dabbagh told EmbOffs that he had recently received authority to extend Iraqi passports and issue Interim Travel Documents (ITDs). He reported a constant demand from Iraqis for more consular services, including issuance of new passports. End Summary.

PASSPORT EXTENSION AUTHORITY, NOT FAR ENOUGH

2. (SBU) PolOff met January 14 with Iraqi Consul General in Amman Ahmad Jiralla Al-Dabbagh to discuss recent consular developments. Al-Dabbagh said his staff had been busy ever since receiving instructions from CPA Baghdad, one week earlier, authorizing them to extend Iraqi passports and provide notarial services. Al-Dabbagh noted that the Mission had posted a notice on its front door upon receipt of instructions and said that word had spread immediately. Al-Dabbagh mentioned that the Mission processed an average of 200-300 passport extensions per day, and a limited number of notarizations. He added that his staff had been working until midnight daily to allow Iraqis seeking passport extensions to receive their renewed passports on the following day. He reported that they had already witnessed a substantial decrease in demand, to an average of between 20-30 applicants per day, after the initial surge.

AMMAN-BASED IRAQIS CLAMORING FOR PASSPORT ISSUANCE SERVICES

3. (SBU) Al-Dabbagh told PolOff that the ITD, was of limited use to Iraqis living in Jordan since few countries were accepting them. Al-Dabbagh claimed that at present, only the U.S., U.K., India, Egypt and Jordan, are accepting the ITD as an official travel document.

4. (SBU) Al-Dabbagh, though happy to see some forward movement, confided that Iraqis in Jordan were unhappy with the limited number of consular services offered and were asking his mission's staff when they would start issuing new Iraqi passports. He urged the U.S. government to seek the agreement of European and Arab countries to accept the ITD as a substitute for an Iraqi passport. He noted that Iraqis have told him that they have lost job opportunities in other Arab countries due to their inability to travel. He cited Jordan as an example of the ITD's limited usefulness, saying the GOJ does not accept it as a valid identification document to open a bank account or for residency permit extensions and added that Iraqis holding it are allowed a maximum of 14 days in country.

5. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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